MARVEL
© 1987 MARVEL ENT. GROUP INC.
TM
$1.25 US
$1.75 CAN
1 · 1987
UK 40p
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
new universe
giant-sized annual
MARK HAZZARD:
MERC
new universe

A MATTER OF LIVES AND DEATH!
SOMEWHERE IN RUSSIAN-OCCUPIED AFGHANISTAN...
ALL RIGHT! ON MY SIGNAL, DROP TO THE GROUND--AND YOUR WEAPON BETTER NOT HIT! LET'S TRY FOR OUR FIRST HEART ATTACK, SHALL WE?!
STORY DOUG MURRAY
PENCILS VINCENT WALLER
INKS FRAJA BATOR
LETTERS KURT HATHAWAY
COLORS JOHN WELLINGTON
EDITOR LARRY HAMA
ED IN CHIEF TOM DEFALCO

MARK HAZZARD: MERC™ ANNUAL Vol. 1, No. 1, 1987. Published by MARVEL COMICS A NEW WORLD COMPANY. James E. Galton, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice President. Mel Schiffman, Vice President. Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Published monthly.
Copyright © 1987 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.25 per copy in the U.S. and $1.75 in Canada. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended and any similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. MARVEL and MARK HAZZARD: MERC (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) are trademarks of the MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC.
POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO MARK HAZZARD: MERC, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.

HIT IT! KEEP THOSE WEAPONS SAFE!

ALL RIGHT! THAT WAS AWFUL! TAKE FIVE AND THEN WE'LL KEEP TRYING UNTIL YOU GET IT RIGHT!

HOW'S IT GOING SGT. MAJOR?

THEY'RE GOOD MEN, SIR. THEY'LL BE ALL RIGHT.

YEAH, THEY'LL BE ALL RIGHT. I WONDER HOW HAZZARD IS

AYE, SIR, ALTHOUGH I ALWAYS THOUGHT HE WAS INDESTRUCTABLE WHY, I REMEMBER..

AFTER THE WAR I KIND OF DRIFTED INTO MERCENARY WORK WITH THAT GROUP THEY CALLED THE WILD GEESE ! ALTHOUGH I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT RICHARD BURTON WAS WRONG FOR THE PART IN THAT FILM.
WE ALWAYS SEEMED TO BE FIGHTING THE BLOODY AFRICANS, ALWAYS TRYING TO RETAKE SOME RICH BIGSHOT'S HOLDINGS.
AND NO MATTER HOW GOOD, HOW WELL-TRAINED WE WERE WE LOST MEN -- GOOD, EXPERIENCED MEN!
AND THEN, MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, THE RICH BIGSHOT WOULD REFUSE TO PAY! IT WAS A LOSING PROPOSITION!
AFTER ALL, YOU COULD ONLY TAKE A LOSS AND CREATE AN EXAMPLE SO MANY TIMES -- BESIDES, THERE JUST WEREN'T ENOUGH MEN, ON BOTH SIDES, TO GO AROUND.
3

FINALLY, I GAVE IT UP. GOT MARRIED. SETTLED DOWN.
OUR FRIEND HAZZARD FOUND ME THEN. TOLD ME HE NEEDED ME... NOT TO FIGHT!
HE NEEDED ME TO TRAIN OTHERS. TO HELP THOSE POOR PEASANTS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES, AGAINST THE CUBANS AND THE BLOODY 'LIBERATORS' OF THE WORLD!
AND IT WORKED! WE MADE THOSE PEASANTS INTO REAL SOLDIERS! SOLDIERS ABLE TO HOLD THEIR OWN AGAINST ANYBODY!
WE WERE DOING WHAT I LOVED! AND ACCOMPLISHING SOMETHING AT THE SAME TIME! IT WAS THE BEST TIME I KNEW!
BUT THEN IT ALL CAME APART! HAZZARD LOST CONTROL, AND WE STARTED DOING JOBS FOR EVERYBODY! WE MADE MONEY-- BUT IT WASN'T THE SAME!
AND NOW HE'S IN THE HOSPITAL! SHOT IN THE BLOODY U.S.! I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND IT!
NEITHER DO I, SGT. MAJOR. NEITHER DO I. BUT LET'S FORGET IT FOR NOW... WE'VE WORK TO DO...

DAYS LATER, DEEPER IN THE MOUNTAINS...
COVER THEM GOOD! IT HAS TO LOOK NATURAL!
WE DON'T WANT THEM TO KNOW THEY'RE HERE... UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE!
THAT'S IT, LADDIES. PLACE 'EM SO THEY BLOCK THE FRONT AND REAR OF THE COLUMN FROM MOVIN'. WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.!
LOOKS ALL RIGHT TO ME! GET SOME REST, FELLOWS.
HOW DID YOU GET IN THIS BLOODY BUSINESS, SIR?
I TRIED NOT TO, SGT MAJOR! I REALLY TRIED NOT TO...

I GOT INTO THE NAVY TOWARD THE END OF THE VIETNAM THING. BECAME A SEAL BECAUSE I WANTED... I DON'T KNOW. IT SEEMED THE THING TO DO...
I ENDED UP PULLING LITTLE MISSIONS ALL UP AND DOWN THE MEKONG.
GOT TO BE PRETTY GOOD, AND PRETTY COCKY ABOUT IT.
FINALLY, MY LUCK RAN OUT.
I WASN'T WORRIED ABOUT ANY GUARDS. WASN'T LOOKING FOR THEM, EITHER.
6

BUT I GOT LUCKY... REACTED TO THE SUCKER BEFORE HE GOT A SHOT OFF!
BLAM!
BUT THE SHOT WOKE THE WHOLE VILLAGE...
AND BEFORE I KNEW IT, I WAS SWIMMING THROUGH THE FOURTH OF JULY!
AND JUST MISSED THE FINALE!
I MANAGED TO MAKE IT TO SHORE IN ONE PIECE.
BUT I WASN'T EXACTLY IN MY ELEMENT.

STILL, I MANAGED TO START MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION...
BUT I WASN'T AS GOOD AS I THOUGHT I WAS... I HAD ACQUIRED SOME COMPANY.
ALTHOUGH I STILL DIDN'T KNOW THEY WERE THERE.
AND BEFORE THEY MADE THEIR MOVE...
...HE WAS THERE! THEY NEVER HAD A CHANCE!
HE'D GOTTEN A REPORT ON OUR MISSION AND WAS CHECKING FOR SURVIVORS. FOUND ME ON HIS SWEEP.

'COURSE, IT WASN'T THAT SIMPLE. CHARLIE WAS OUT SEARCHING TOO.
FINALLY, WE DUG IN AND WAITED FOR THEM TO CATCH UP.
I WAS SCARED. READY TO BOLT. BUT HE WAS AS CALM AS IF IT WERE A PICNIC, AND HE JUST PITCHED GRENADES INTO THEM UNTIL THEY BROKE.
AND BREAK THEY DID. AFTER THAT, WE JUST MADE OUR WAY BACK TO OUR LINES.
I SAW HIM A FEW TIMES AFTER THAT, WHILE I WAS STILL IN COUNTRY. BUT HE SEEMED... REMOTE...NOT THE SAME WHEN HE WASN'T IN THE FIELD.
FINALLY, I SHIPPED HOME, AND FOUND THAT THINGS HAD CHANGED THERE AS WELL.

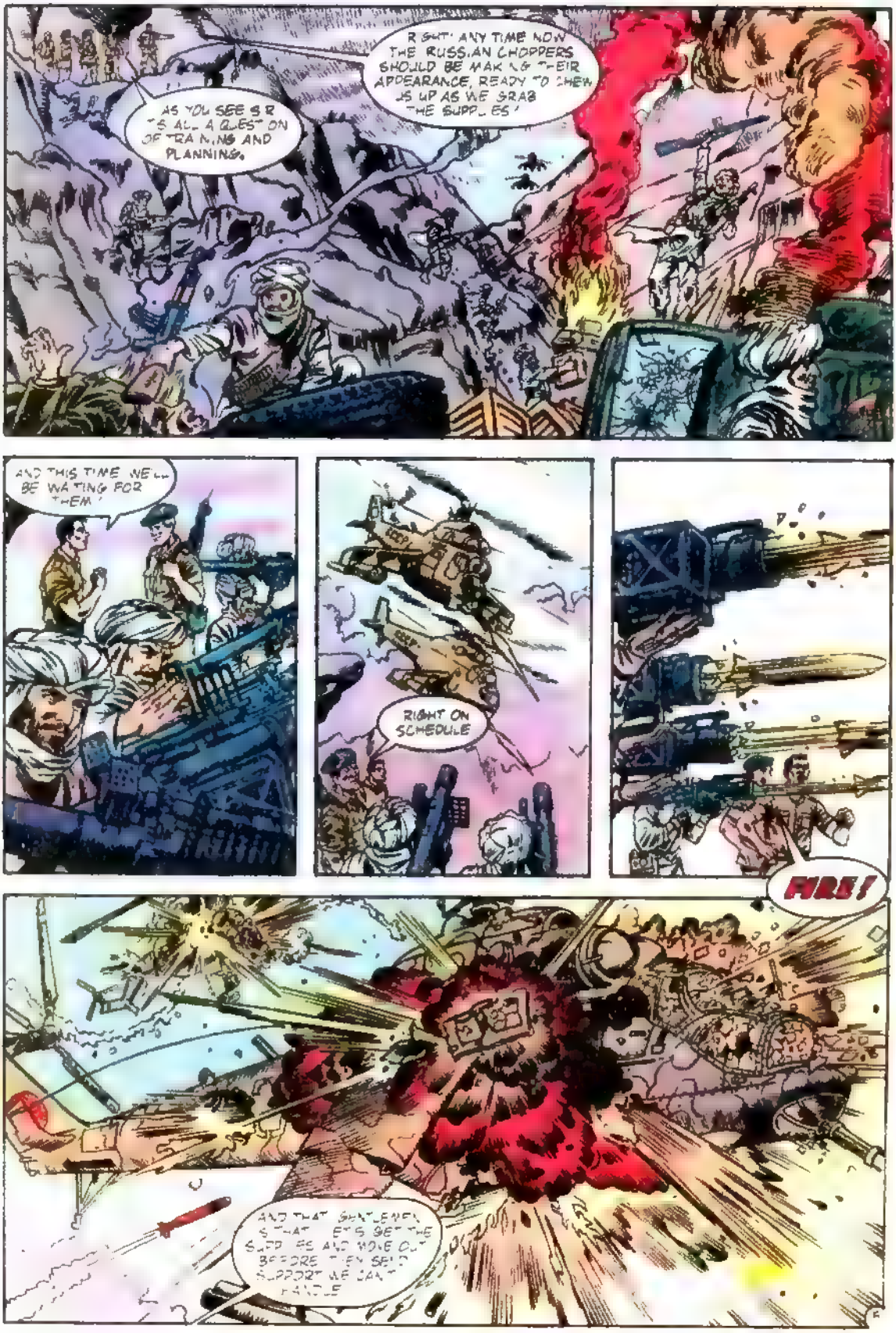
MY FAMILY WAS HAPPY I WAS BACK, THOUGH AND I WAS DETERMINED NOT TO STAY IN THE SERVICE I LOOKED FOR A JOB THAT FIT MY TRAINING
I BECAME A SKY MARSHAL FOR AWHILE.
BUT I FOUND THE GOVERNMENT DIDN'T REALLY KNOW WHAT IT WANTED SKY MARSHALS TO DO!
THEY CERTAINLY DIDN'T WANT US TO STOP HIJACKINGS
SO I TRIED SOMETHING ELSE - I FIGURED THE POLICE WOULD HAVE A SPOT FOR ME
AND THEY DID

AT FIRST IT SEEMED IDEAL.
BANK
BUT I QUICKLY CAME TO REALIZE
THAT THIS WAS JUST A DIFFERENT SORT OF JUNGLE AND I DON'T KNOW ALL THE RULES
SO I QUIT AND GOT BACK INTO A GAME I DO KNOW.
I BECAME A MERCENARY.
TOOK A LOT OF JOBS FOR THE COMPANY BUT I GOT TO THE POINT WHERE I DIDN'T TRUST THEM VERY MUCH AND WENT IN MY OWN
11

MET HAZZARD A COUPLE OF TIMES. USUALLY ON THE SAME SIDE
SOMETIMES ON THE OTHER
I SEEMED THAT HAZZARD STARTED SO WE BAD THEN. HE WAS ON THE WRONG SIDE A LOT
ALTHOUGH IN THIS JOB IT'S HARD TO TELL WHICH SIDE IS WHICH
AND NOW WE'RE HERE AND WE'LL THERE. YOU CAN NEVER TELL

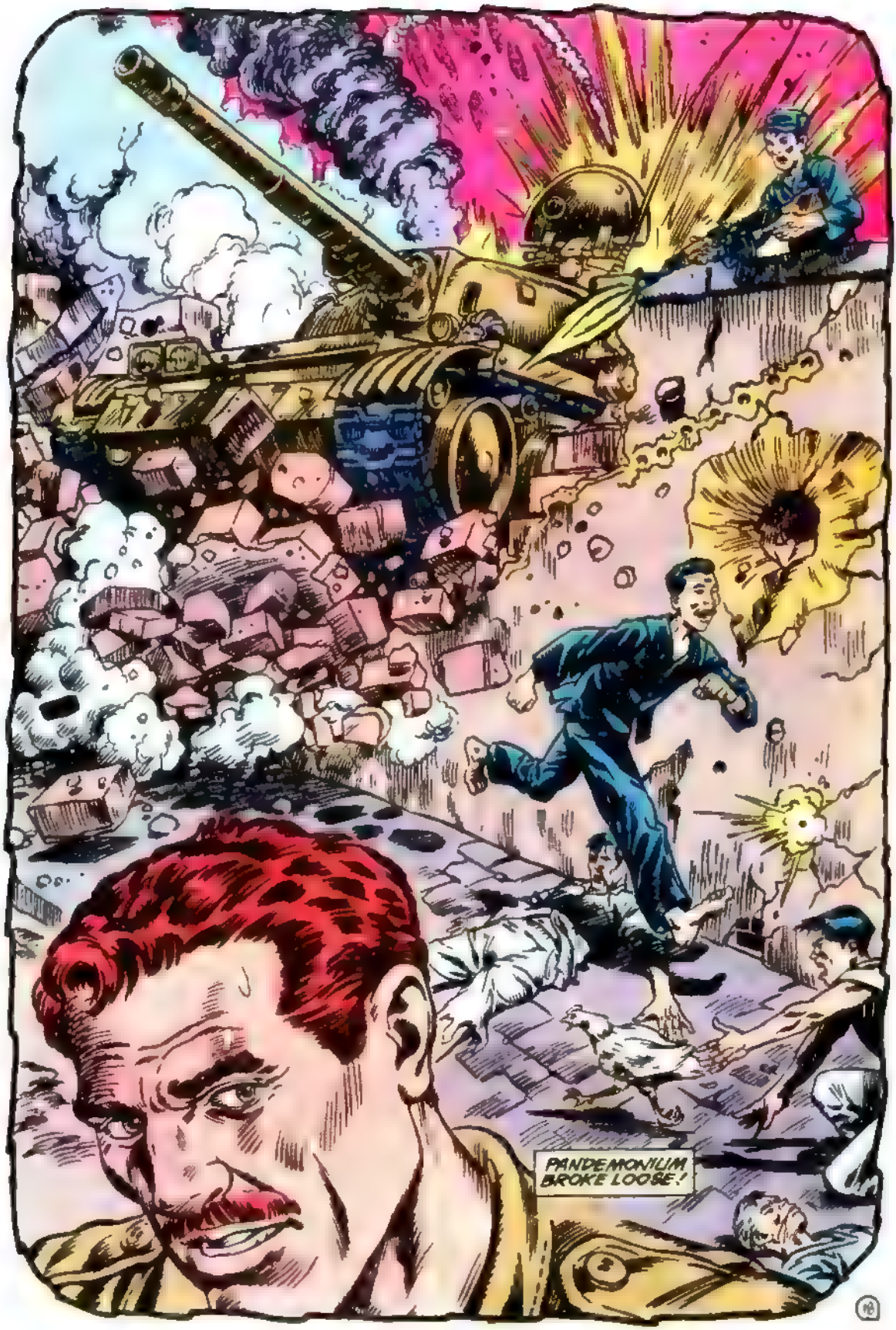
HERE THEY COME SGT MAJOR - PLEASE MAKE SURE THE MEN ARE READY
RIGHT SIR
AS THE RUSSIAN CONVOY MOVES INTO THE PASS THE AFGHANS FINISH LAST MINUTE PREPARATIONS
CONTROL NOW WAIT FOR -
NOW!
READY WITH THE

AS THE CLAYMORES GO OFF, THE RUSSIAN POSITION DISINTEGRATES
SEE THEY'RE GOING TO TRY THE MORTAR AGAIN
NOW WHEN THEY FIRE THE FIRST ROUND THE BASE PLATE OUGHT TO CREATE ENOUGH PRESSURE
SET DEC THE MINES WE PLANTED
JUST LIKE THAT


AS YOU SEE S R
'S ALL A QUEST ON
OF TRA N NG AND
PLANNING.
R GHT' ANY TIME NOW
THE RUSS AN CHOPPERS
SHOULD BE MAK NG THEIR
APPEARANCE, READY TO CHEW
US UP AS WE GRAB
THE SUPPL ES'
AND THIS TIME WE'
BE WA TING FOR
THEM'
RIGHT ON
SCHEDULE
FIRE!
AND THAT GENTLEMEN
S THAT IT'S GET THE
SUPP ES AND MOVE OUT
BEFORE THEY SEND
SUPPORT WE CAN'T
HANDLE

THE NEXT DAY AT THE AIRFIELD WAS WARM AND SUNNY
IT'S NICE TO SEE THEM SO HAPPY & I'M GLAD I WAS ABLE TO HAVE HELPED!
YES, IT'S NICE SGT MAJOR, I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON AT HOME THOUGH
BACK IN A NEW YORK HOSPITAL
A SHORT, WE MUST OPERATE IMMEDIATELY!
IT'S HIS ONLY CHANCE! AND WE HAVE TO TRY NOW
IF YOU SAY SO DOCTOR
GO AHEAD
WELL, WHAT'S THE WORD?
WHAT'S GOING ON?

THEY SAY THEY HAVE TO OPERATE IMMEDIATELY AND THAT HIS CHANCES ARE..
.. SLIM AT BEST
SLIM! MARK? I CAN'T BELIEVE HE ALWAYS SEEMED TO BE SO.. INDESTRUCTIBLE!
SIVE CARE
BELIEVE IT, MAN!
20 GRAMS OF LEAD CAN DO IT TO ANYONE!
IT'S ONLY A COUPLE OF BULLETS!
REMEMBER WHEN WE FIRST MET, IN THE 'NAM?
I WAS ATTACHED TO THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY TRAINING TEAM, VIETNAM AATTV FOR SHORT. I WAS TEACHING RVN TROOPS TO USE EXPLOSIVES PRODUCTIVELY
ONE FINE DAY I WAS TAKING A LITTLE WALK THROUGH THE CITY WHEN..


PANDEMONIUM BROKE LOOSE!

'ET HAD BROKEN OUT' AND I WAS UP THE BLOODY CREEK WITHOUT THE PROVERBIAL PADDLE!
STILL I WAS ABLE TO SAVE SOME EQUIPMENT!
AND I TRIED TO MAKE MY WAY OUT OF THE CITY ASAP!
AND I ALMOST MADE IT UNTIL MY LUCK RAN OUT!
BUT I GUESS I HADN'T RUN OUT JUST YET!
NOT JUST YET!

IT WAS MARK. HE WAS HIT TOO, BUT HE HADN'T QUIT YET!
AND BLAST IT I HAD, EITHER!
HE FOUND US A PLACE TO HIDE AND THEN GOT SOME FOOD AND WATER -- KEPT US ALIVE
AND THEN HE WENT AFTER A RADIO!
AND SOMEHOW, HE GOT ONE!
AND WE WERE ABLE TO CALL IN HELP!

AND WE GOT OUT--ALIVE AND IN ONE PIECE
I SAW HIM A COUPLE OF TIMES AFTER THAT. HE TOLD ME ABOUT HIS FATHER AND WHAT HE PLANNED TO DO.
AND THEN THE WAR ENDED FOR ME AND I WENT HOME.
FOR A WHILE, ALL WAS DINKUM
I FOUND A GOOD JOB HAD SOME MATES
BUT AFTER A WHILE, I GOT BORED AND HIT THE BOTTLE...HARD!

THEN HE CAME BACK
AND HE GAVE ME SOMETHING TO DO
HE MOVED AROUND THE WORLD AND THERE WAS A LOT NEEDED DONE
THEN IT WAS DECIDED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT HIM
AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO!

HE'S BEEN LIVING WITH YOU I KNOW! WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU TO HIM?
'S MORE WHAT HE IS TO ME
E CARE
I CAME TO NEW YORK ALONE-- RUNNING FROM MY FATHER
ROOM TO RENT HOURLY RATES
I WAS ON THE VERGE OF BECOMING ONE OF THOSE STATISTICS YOU READ ABOUT...
MARDI GR
AND THEN, HE SHOWED UP!
23

I DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND AT THE TIME
BUT HE FED ME, AND LISTENED TO MY STORY
RECORDS
50¢
AND HE TOOK ME TO THE SENSEI
MARTIAL ARTS
AND THE SENSEI AGREED TO TAKE ME IN
AND TEACH ME KARATE
IT TOOK A WHILE, AND A LOT OF WORK

BUT IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO ENSURE MY INDEPENDENCE
AND EVENTUALLY I SUCCEEDED!
WHEN THE SENSE DIED
HE LEFT THE DOJO TO ME.
MASTE
PILE
BUT AS FAR AS I WAS CONCERNED IT WAS AS MUCH YORK'S AS MINE

SO WHEN HE HAD PROBLEMS RECENTLY
I TOOK HIM A WHOLE QUESTION!
OF COURSE YOU WOULD
WE'LL KNOW IN A FEW HOURS!

TWO HOURS LATER
S'll TOO EARLY TO TEL WHY DON'T YOU ALL GET SOME DINNER? WE'LL CALL F THERE'S ANY CHANGE

IN THE HOSPITAL COFFEE SHOP
I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT HOW I TALK USED TO BE
I WAS FLYING SLICKS FOR JACKIE SUGAR OUT OF DA NANG NORTH FOR VALLEY SPOTTING LOVERS DOWN ALL OVER NORTH VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA
THE FIRST TIME I SAW WARK WAS IN '60 AFTER TET
I WAS PULLING AN EXTRACTION JUST NORTH OF THE Z
I WAS HAZZARD'S GROUND-THEY HAD WOUNDED

WE STARTED TO TAKE HOSTILE FIRE
AND I DID WHAT I WAS TRAINED TO DO... I BOOT OUT!
I GOT BACK TO BASE AND OFFLOADED THE WOUNDED
AND AS I WAS FINISHING THE SECOND SLICK CAME IN.
AND HAZZARD LEAPED THE BRIDGE AS IT TOUCHED DOWN!
AND PULLED ME RIGHT OUT OF MY SEAT!

THEN HE BEAT THE LIVING TAR OUT OF ME
I SUPPOSE I COULD HAVE GOTTEN HIM ON CHARGES
BUT HE WAS RIGHT. I SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT THOSE MEN.
AND I APOLOGIZED.
AND WE ENDED UP WORKING TOGETHER A LOT.

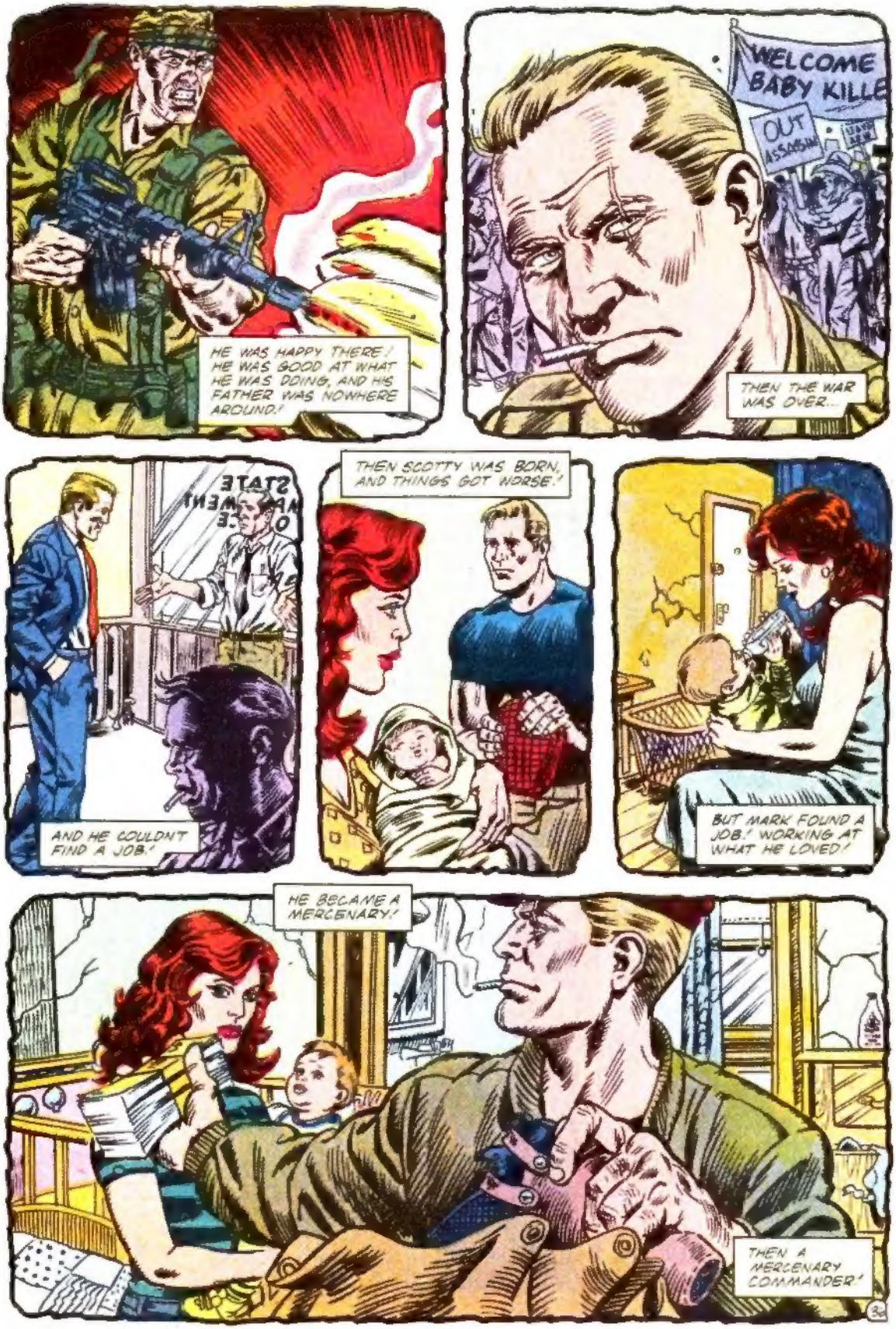
THEN THE WAR WAS OVER
AT LEAST IT WAS OVER IN THE NAM.
THUG
I DECIDED TO USE MY SKILLS TO GET RICH QUICK!
AND NOT TO ASK TOO MANY QUESTIONS OF MY EMPLOYERS
I WORKED THE MONEY JUST SORTA FLOWED IN
DEPOSITS ONLY
AND I WAS RICH!

I WAS LEGIT NOW... BUT I WAS BORED.
THEN I MET MARK ASH AND FOUND OUT WHAT YOU GUYS WERE DOING
I HAD TO GET IN ON IT AND I INSISTED ON RUNNING THE SHOW.
AND THERE I WAS, WHERE I WANT ANOTHER MISTAKE.
I AM INVADING AND I ONLY INTEREST ARE MONEY.

I ALL FELL APART I AM
COULDN'T WORK THAT WAY
AND HE EVENTUALLY
EXPLODED!
THE WORST PART S... T
WAS MY FAULT ALTHOUGH
I NEVER TOLD H M THAT
AND NOW ALL MY MONEY
WHY DID YOU DIVORCE
HIM? I'VE NEVER BEEN
ABLE TO UNDERSTAND
YOU.
HIS FATHER WANTED HIM TO
BE THE BEST AT E RYTH NG
AND NEVER SETTLED FOR
LESS
DO KNOW
ABOU HIS
FATHER?

NEVER LET HIM BE A CHILD EITHER
WHATEVER HE DID NO MATTER HOW HE DID
IT WAS NEVER GOOD ENOUGH
BEAT BROS
PROM
THEN WHEN WE MET WE AND WE FELL IN LOVE
AND HIS FATHER STILL WASN'T SATISFIED
THEN HE WENT TO WEST POINT AND IT ALL CAME TO A HEAD

MARK WAS GOOD AT A LOT OF THINGS: TACTICS, LANGUAGES, A LOT OF THINGS...
HE WAS A CADET OFFICER... BUT HE WASN'T THE BEST...
AND HIS FATHER COULDN'T ACCEPT LESS...
MARK JUST WOULDN'T TAKE ANYMORE. HE QUIT THE POINT...
AND MARRIED ME.
THAT PUT HIM IN THE ARMY AS AN NCO. BUT HE DIDN'T CARE...


HE WAS HAPPY THERE! HE WAS GOOD AT WHAT HE WAS DOING, AND HIS FATHER WAS NOWHERE AROUND!
WELCOME BABY KILLE
OUT ASSASSIN
THEN THE WAR WAS OVER...
AND HE COULDN'T FIND A JOB!
THEN SCOTTY WAS BORN, AND THINGS GOT WORSE!
BUT MARK FOUND A JOB! WORKING AT WHAT HE LOVED!
HE BECAME A MERCENARY!
THEN A MERCENARY COMMANDER!

HE WAS HAPPY! BUT I WASN'T! I NEVER SAW HIM, AND I WORRIED ALL THE TIME!
TIME
I FINALLY GAVE HIM AN ULTIMATUM-- ME OR HIS WORK! I WAS JUST LIKE HIS FATHER! JUST LIKE HIM!
AND I LOST HIM! I LOST HIM FOR GOOD!
SURE I REMARRIED. I HAD TO FOR SCOTT. BUT I NEVER REALLY GAVE HIM UP. NEVER STOPPED LOVING HIM.
WOULD YOU ALL PLEASE COME WITH ME?

BACK IN THE WILDS OF AFGHANISTAN.
YOU FEEL IT TOO DON'T YOU, SIR?
I DON'T KNOW SGT. MAJOR -- I DO KNOW THAT I FEEL REALLY DOWN -- PASS THAT BOTTLE.
THIS IS THE EEG, THE INSTRUMENT THAT MONITORS BRAIN ACTIVITY. IT'S FLAT!
I'M SORRY! I'M AFRAID YOUR FRIEND IS GONE! ONLY THE MACHINE IS KEEPING HIM ALIVE!
TURN IT OFF!
SCOTTY!
TURN IT OFF! MY FATHER WOULD WANT IT THAT WAY!
HE'S RIGHT! TURN IT OFF!
THAT TURNS THE RESPIRATOR OFF!
END